

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05060 241558Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----250408Z 079514 /22
R 241541Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3128

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 5060

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENR PFOR EG IS US
SUBJ: AMOCO EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ

1. DURING SOCIAL CONVERSATION MARCH 23, AMOCO EGYPT
MANAGER ROSS CRAIG TOLD EMBOFF THAT MINPET HILAL HAD
RECENTLY MENTIONED TO HIM GOE'S DESIRE FOR AMOCO TO RESUME
EXPLORATION AT SITE 304.1. HILAL EVIDENTLY WANTS MARINER
DRILLING RIG TO MOVE BLOCK 304 AFTER IT FINISHES CURRENT
DRILLING OFF ABU RUDEIS. CRAIG TOLD HILAL THAT WHILE HE
WOULD OF COURSE LIKE TO MOVE MARINER BACK TO ORIGINAL
LOCATION, HE WOULD NOT WANT TO DO SO UNTIL SUITABLE ARRANGE-
MENTS HAD BEEN WORKED OUT TO PREVENT AN INCIDENT LIKE THE
ONE WHICH OCCURRED IN AUGUST. HILAL SAID HE HAD NOTING
NEW ON THAT SCORE, BUT REITERATED THAT HE, FOREIGN MINISTER
FAHMY AND OTHERS IN GOE BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR
AMOCO TO TRY TO EXPLORE AT SITE 304.1 SOON.

2. COMMENT: BELIEVE THAT EGYPTIANS MAY HAVE BEEN EMBOLDENED
BY RECENT EPISODE INBLOCK 392 AND HOPE THAT IF AMOCO WERE
TO GO BACK TO 304.1 THEY MIGHT HAVE GOOD CHANCE OF STAYING.
AS MARINER'S WORK IN ABU RUDEIS FINISHES (WE UNDERSTAND RIG
HAS ABOUT ANOTHER MONTH TO GO) GOE PRESSUE FOR AMOCO TO
HAVE ANOTHER TRY AT 304.1 WILL UNDOUBTEDLY INCREASE. IT
REMAINS TO BE SEEN, HOWEVER, IF ATTEMPT TO FORCE SITUATION IN
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SENSITIVE MONTHS AHEAD HAS BACKING OF PRESIDENT. WE SUSPECT
HE WILL HAVE CALMING EFFECT ON THOSE WHO ARE ADVOCATING
PRECIPITATE ACTION. WE BELIEVE FAHMY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY RAISE
OIL EXPLORATION QUESTION DURING SADAT VISIT TO
WASHINGTON.
MATTHEWS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US, AMOCO
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